



MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2017

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) held its meeting at Sandy Spring Museum in Sandy Spring, MD on November 17, 2017. Chair Shelley Morhaim called the meeting to order.

Present: Carole Alexander, Lily Bengfort, Barbara Bershon, Zoe Charlton, Anthony Cornwell, Joan Lyon, Julie Madden, Shelley Morhaim, B.G. Muhn, Jack Rasmussen, Gary Vikan, Anne West, MSAC staff

Absent: Aileen Carlucci, Carla Du Pree, Senator Richard Madaleno, Robinson Rowe, Delegate Alonzo Washington

Guests: April Nyman, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Allison Weiss, Executive Director, Sandy Spring Museum

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Chair's Report

Shelley Morhaim reported the following:

- ✚ We are so glad to be here in Sandy Spring today, thank you all for joining us
 - Special thanks to Allison Weiss for hosting us today
 - ✓ Allison provided a brief overview and tour of the museum
- ✚ Welcome to our new Executive Director, Ken Skrzysz
- ✚ Shelley mentioned various events attended since the September Council meeting
 - Some events included:
 - ✓ MSAC 50th Anniversary Celebration
 - ✓ The Baltimore Book Festival
 - ✓ CAAM Retreat
 - ✓ Centerstage Opening Night
 - ✓ Chesapeake Shakespeare Theatre
 - ✓ The Trawick Prize
 - ✓ Baltimore County Arts Guild
 - ✓ NASAA Leadership Conference
- ✚ "Council Kisses" were given to Councilors for their outreach activities
 - Lily Bengfort, Barbara Bershon, Carole Alexander, Tony Cornwell, Jack Rasmussen, Joan Lyon and Anne West, received acknowledgment
 - Shelley encouraged the Council to take on an active role as Ambassadors
- ✚ Thanks to everyone for your continued participation
- ✚ MSAC will be hosting the 2018 NASAA conference in Baltimore
 - The dates are November 1-3
 - Stay tuned for further details
- ✚ We would like to move forward with discontinuing paper materials for our Council meetings
 - You will still receive your electronic copies prior to each meeting

- Many boards have already done away with providing hard copies
- This may prove to be a more efficient process for all

MD Traditions Heritage Awards Update

Chad Buterbaugh reported the following:

- ✚ We are gearing up for the 11th Annual MD Heritage Awards (formerly known as ALTA)
 - Please join us on December 2, 7:30, at the Proscenium Theatre, UMBC
 - The winners of each category are:
 - ✓ Person Joan M.E. Gaither, Documentary Story Quilter
 - ✓ Place Baltimore American Indian Center
 - ✓ Tradition Skipjack Races & Festival, Deal Island
 - This is a free ticketed event, open to the public
 - Please reserve your tickets at: <https://umbctickets.universitytickets.com>
 - Hope to see you there

PP&E Update

Barbara Bershon reported the following:

- ✚ The PP&E committee met on November 7
 - The committee discussed the idea of a new MSAC facility
 - The MSAC staff and committee discussed the upcoming strategic planning process
 - The main takeaway is that things are changing and changing quickly, we need to act now
 - We do not want the anxiety of location to drive the whole process
- ✚ Shelley, Julie and Gary met with Liz Fitsimmons and Mike Gill (Commerce), regarding the strategic plan and also presented the idea of the new facility (Studio MD)
 - Commerce appeared to be enthusiastic
 - This is not something that can be done quickly
 - Commerce has requested that the strategic plan be completed in six months, rather than the usual 18 months
 - We have requested a copy of their strategic plan for comparison purposes
 - Gary Vikan voiced a few concerns, including:
 - ✓ Location for the work of MSAC
 - ✓ Who is in charge of the strategic plan
 - ✓ What will be the role of the Council
 - ✓ Who decides how long it takes and how much is spent
 - ✓ We need to be clear on what we want and what we expect
 - ✓ We need to "own" this
 - Ken suggested that these concerns be addressed in the next Executive Committee meeting, to determine any appropriate action steps

Executive Director's Report

Ken Skrzysz reported the following:

- ✚ Best of Maryland, MSAC 50th Anniversary event
 - MSAC will participate in MSDE's Arts Education Festival on April 20, 2018
 - Work from various Individual Artists Award winners will be on display
 - A multi-artist performance representing all MSAC programming and regions
- ✚ Proposed plans for a new MSAC facility, Studio MD
 - Highlights of Studio MD include:
 - ✓ A permanent home for the Maryland State Arts Council, located in the Bromo- Seltzer Arts and Entertainment District of Baltimore City
 - ✓ Increases the visibility of the work of the Maryland State Arts Council

- ✓ Celebrates the arts in Maryland by raising the awareness of the arts in the lives of all residents, increasing the opportunity to interact with state-level leadership, and providing space and support for all stakeholders.
- ✓ Developed in partnership with an existing non-profit organization with a long-term commitment from the Maryland State Arts Council
- ✓ Host a marketplace for local artists
- ✓ Host a performance space
- ✓ Is a “green” building
- + The Communications Manager recruitment is underway
 - We will be interviewing on December 1
 - There are six applicants to be interviewed
 - 1st interviews will be held by MSAC staff, 2nd interviews will involve Commerce
- + The staff has been asked to review current job descriptions and make any necessary adjustments
 - We will be talking next steps soon
- + Special thanks to the staff for all of your hard work and guidance during the transition
- + We are currently looking at our administrative procedures, in hopes of smoothing out the grant funding process
- + There are some Strategic Planning considerations we wish to explore, including:
 - Listening Tour
 - ✓ We will try to hit three counties in one day (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
 - ✓ Open to public
 - ✓ Opportunity to hear from the constituents
 - ✓ This can be done in approximately eight days, led by our Program Directors
 - ✓ Can be done in conjunction with CAAM
- + Ken recently attended a conference that was focused on looking at dance through inclusion and diversity
 - National Cultural Competence Trends will hopefully be a driver in our strategic planning process
 - Some questions include:
 - ✓ Are our organizations serving an audience or are they serving a community
 - ✓ What defines a community
 - ✓ What are the indicators
 - ✓ Is the work of or for
- + The First Lady’s next student exhibition is December 4 in Annapolis

Public Art Update

Liesel Fenner reported the following:

- + Our second Maryland Public Art Initiative project is at the University of Maryland Baltimore
 - There is a proposed dedication date of May 3, 2018
 - The artist is Eric Peltzer
 - The budget for this project is \$400,000
- + The next project will be at the Maryland National Guard Easton Readiness Center
 - There is a projected completion of Late 2018
 - The artist is Mark Stutzman
 - The budget for this project is \$76,700
- + We are aiming for completion of approximately 16 projects from now through 2020
 - Our public art project total is estimated at \$2,703,674

CAAM Update

Steven Skerritt-Davis reported the following:

- + CAAM meets around four times per year
- + We recently attended the CAAM retreat
 - Ken, Liesel and Steven attended
 - This year's retreat was on the Eastern Shore
 - There was lunch at the Ward Museum and a reception in Berlin
 - These retreats are held every other year
 - MCA and MSAC were both presenters this year

A&E Economic Impact Update

Steven Skerritt-Davis provided an overview of the 2016 A&E Economic Impact Update

- + Highlights include:
 - There are 25 A&E districts
 - \$267 million in wages
 - \$855.8 million in State GDP
 - \$63.5 million in tax revenues
 - Please note that these numbers are completely separate from the MSAC Economic Impact

A&E Technical Assistance Grants

The Technical Assistance grants were approved as presented.

Maryland Citizens for the Arts Update

April Nyman reported the following:

- + Nicholas Cohen is unable to be here today, and sends his regrets
- + We have made four legislative visits so far
- + Our main objective this year is to make sure the funding formula is correct
- + MD Arts Day is February 22, in Annapolis
- + Please be sure to sign up to receive the latest news and updates
- + Thanks for all that you do

New Business

- + Next Council Meeting is January 19, 2018

Adjournment

Attachments:

- ✓ A&E Technical Assistance Grants